

REMARKS**A. Status of the Claims**

Claims 24-29 are currently pending and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action has alleged that “[t]he claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention”.

More specifically, the Office Action requests Applicant to point out support in the specification for “mixing the refined calcium fluoride and a scavenger at a predetermined proportion, to obtain a second mixture” as recited in claim 24. According to the Office Action, “[a]s now required in the instant claim 24, the refine[d] calcium fluoride and the scavenger are mixed before a second baking step.”

In response, Applicant has amended claim 24 to further clarify the invention. Claim 24 now recites, in pertinent part, “wherein said method includes a baking process before fusing the first mixture or a baking process after fusing the first mixture but before formation and fusing of the second mixture”. Support for this amendment is provided generally throughout the specification. For example, the following are sections of the specification which support claim 24.

1. Page 15, line 4 to page 17 line 19 provides a discussion “forming a first mixture” and baking before “fusing the first mixture”.
2. Page 19, line 12-25 provides a discussion of “fusing the first mixture”.
3. Page 20, line 27 to page 21, line 7 provides a discussion of a baking between forming the first and second mixture.

4. Page 23, lines 5 – 21 provides a discussion of “forming” and “fusing the second mixture”.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 24 is fully supported by the specification, as are dependent claims 25-29. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 24-29 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

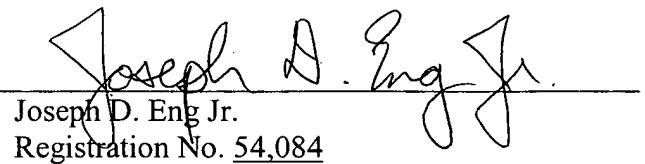
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4830. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4830. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 1, 2005

By:


Joseph D. Eng Jr.
Registration No. 54,084

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile